

States such as ours that all too often are shortchanged in terms of what they get in lieu of taxes where the Federal Government owns vast tracts of land and then is not a good neighbor, doesn't pay its fair share of the tab.

I thank the Senator from Colorado for his excellent amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Who yields time?

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask that Senator BAYH be added as a cosponsor to my avian flu amendment No. 3133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I see the Senator from Maryland is now on the floor. I say to the Senator from Maryland, I now have 6 minutes left, and I am wondering if I could give 4 minutes to the Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Yes, that would be fine.

Mr. CONRAD. I have to give some time to Senator BAUCUS before the debt limit vote. So I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the Senator. Does that leave the Senator with enough time for his other purposes?

Mr. CONRAD. I am sure Senator GREGG and I will be able to work it out.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I thank the Senator very much.

AMENDMENT NO. 3103

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I offer amendment No. 3103.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES], for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. REED, proposes an amendment numbered 3103.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To restore funding for the civil works programs of the Corps of Engineers, the Federal Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal conservation programs, and other natural resource needs, through an offset achieved by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$699,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$320,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$116,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$58,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, decrease the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, decrease the amount by \$699,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, decrease the amount by \$320,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, decrease the amount by \$116,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, decrease the amount by \$58,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$2,912,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$699,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$320,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$116,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$58,000,000.

On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by \$2,912,000,000.

On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by \$699,000,000.

On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by \$320,000,000.

On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by \$116,000,000.

On page 14, line 13, increase the amount by \$58,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$2,912,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,718,000,000.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, this amendment is to restore funding for function 300 Natural Resources and Environment, and for other purposes. I ask unanimous consent that Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator REED of Rhode Island be added as cosponsors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SARBANES. If the Chair would tell me when 1 minute is left on my time, I would be most appreciative.

Madam President, the purpose of this amendment is to restore funding for a number of important environmental programs under function 300. The President's budget request and the chairman's mark on the resolution cut funding for water resources, conservation and land management, recreational resources, pollution control and abatement, and other natural resources and environmental activities by nearly \$3 billion from the baseline, or almost 10 percent. This amendment would seek to add \$2.9 billion to bring

the function 300 total back up to baseline. It is offset with revenues from the closing of corporate tax loopholes.

We have a list of possibilities, many of which have passed the Senate before and have been strongly supported by very large majorities in this body. Let me just give a few examples of the kinds of programs we are trying to at least provide some additional support for, although it falls short of what the need is; but we are trying to get back to baseline.

The Army Corps of Engineers civil works program, flood control, navigation, storm protection, environmental restoration—I hardly need, in the aftermath of Katrina, to emphasize the importance of such programs. The EPA budget has been sharply cut, including nearly \$200 million from the clean water State revolving loan fund, which is now in this budget at the lowest funding level ever for clean water infrastructure. It has been cut by nearly 50 percent from the 2004 level because there has been a steady decline, and, of course, this impacts every State's and every community's ability to upgrade their waste water infrastructure and meet Clean Water Act requirements.

The National Park Service is being cut. Our National Parks have a desperate need for funding in order to carry out their activities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, the National Park Service is falling well short of what they need in order to sustain the park system. NOAA is being cut in this budget, including the National Marine Fisheries Service. There is a lot of emphasis on our oceans. Two commissions have studied it. Yet the Oceans Commission says we are falling well short of any real commitment there. The NOAA budget is cut, the Fish and Wildlife Service budget, and the Forest Service. This amendment seeks to at least bring back this funding to function 300 for all of these very important environmental and natural resource problems to baseline, to current funding levels.

I very much hope my colleagues will support this amendment and contribute to protecting the environment and health of our Nation's citizens, helping to ensure that we have clean water and that we breathe clean air.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I yield 2½ minutes to Senator DORGAN from North Dakota.